Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers

782. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Air Traffic controllers in various airports in the country;

(b) whether there is an acute shortage of A.T.Cs. in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) :

(a) 842.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are being made to fill up the existing vacancies and to create new posts to meet the requirements of air traffic operations.

Crude Oil

783. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and production of domestic crude oil during 1996-97;

(b) whether there has been a shortfall in the production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The demand for crude oil in the country is based on the refining capacity which was 60.5 MMT in 1996-97. The production of indigenous crude oil was 32.88 MMT.

(b) and (c) There had been shortfall in production of crude oil during 1996-97 due to the following reasons:—

— Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour not in conformity with earlier predictions.

— Reduced production from joint venture projects.

— Constraints in operating conditions on account of law and order problems and insurgency in North Eastern region.

— Stoppage of work in Nagaland.

— Frequent power shutdown in Western and Eastern region affecting artificial lift operations.

[Translation]

Air Service for Vidisha District

784. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh by Air; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made possible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Summer Flight Schedules for Leh

785. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many foreign tourists have cancelled their visit to India due to inordinate delay in announcing the summer flight schedules of Indian Airlines to Leh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of foreign tourist groups who have cancelled their visit during the months of February, March, April and May 1997 separately; and

(c) the expected loss of foreign exchange to the country's exchequer as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Air Service for Jaisalmer and Bikaner

786. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: